



NOLLAIG 2024

NUACHTLITIR



Your monthly news from Sacred Heart National School Rath

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Christmas 2024

As we enter December, talk of Christmas is in the air as we anticipate all the joy and happiness this season brings. I'm sure the teachers will organise lots of fun Christmas-themed activities, but we still have three school weeks ahead with lots of work to get through. Therefore, we ask the children not to wear Christmas jumpers until the final week commencing Monday December 16th.

Our Student Council will once again organise a 'Santa Dash' before Christmas. The money raised will be donated to St Vincent de Paul locally. It is essentially a fun run that will take place on the school grounds. The children can wear their Christmas jumpers and Santa hats. The event will take place on Thursday December 19th. We are not asking the children to sell sponsorship cards, but donations to SVP can be made on the day.

We will close for the Christmas holidays on Friday December 20th at 12:30pm. We will reopen on Monday January 6th.

Smartphone Charter

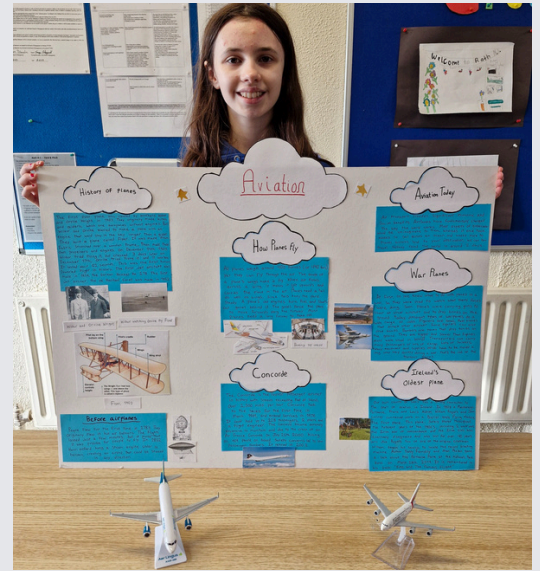
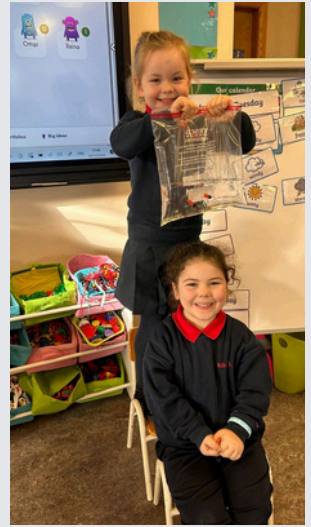
As communicated last week, it has been decided to proceed with the proposed smartphone charter. The agreement states;

My child will not own a smartphone or have access to social media platforms until, at the very earliest, after Confirmation in 6th Class in Rath N.S.

The school and the Parents' Association respect that each family has the right to decide whether or not their children own a smartphone or have access to social media. There is no obligation to sign up to this charter. Hard copies of the agreement were sent home to each family last week. Should you require more copies, please contact Amanda in the office. We hope to build on this initiative in the coming months. It is our intention to book experts in the field of internet safety to speak with pupils and parents / guardians. We will inform you once dates have been confirmed.

Science Week

We recently celebrated Science Week in the school. Each class engaged in science experiments and projects and there was lots of evidence of collaboration, innovation and scientific skills in operation. The pictures attached capture some of the great work that took place across the school. There are more photos to view on the school website.



Gaeilge

Mí na Nollag(December)

Seachtain 1 – Tá sceitimíní orm / Tá sceitimíní orm mar...

Seachtain 2 - Tá mé ag tnúth le....

Seachtain 3 - Nollaig Shona duit

Ceist coicíse: Cad iad na habhair scoile is fear leat?



Hot Lunches

We remind you to please check your child's lunch box each day to make sure they're eating their meals in school. One of the positive elements of The Lunch Bag's product is that it allows parents / guardians to see if there is waste or leftovers each day.

If there is regular waste, you should revisit the meal choices using The Lunch Bag app. Alternatively, you may wish to send in some extra lunch with your child each day.

Sport

Football: Our 3rd & 4th Class pupils travelled to the Laois GAA Centre of Excellence last week to take part in a non-competitive blitz. It was really well organised, with each team playing 3 matches. Well done to the boys and girls for participating.

Table Tennis: One of the highlights for 6th Class each year is our annual Table Tennis League. Ms. Phelan, with the support of Ms. Bergin and Shirley, has commenced coaching sessions with the class in advance of the leagues. We look forward to an exciting few weeks of action!



Church Car Park Collection

We recently encouraged you to park at the church car park when collecting children at 3pm. It has made a massive difference to traffic management and road safety at the front of the school. We thank you very much for this.

However, as you are aware, there is a section between the gate at the end of the school pitch and the car park that is on the open road. For safety purposes, it is advisable to collect the children at the gate and walk them back to the car park. Many thanks once again for your continued cooperation.

5th & 6th Class Visit Donaghmore Famine Workhouse Museum

5th & 6th Class visited Donaghmore Workhouse and Famine Museum recently. Both classes had covered this important period in Irish history so the visit to Donaghmore helped to consolidate all the learning that had taken place and gave the pupils a real understanding of what life was like during this most difficult time. The bus managed to stop at a playground on the way home as well! A great day was had by all. There are more photos on the website.



Meet our Student Council



Name: Tadhg O'Connell

Class: Rang 5

Favourite Subject: PE

Hobbies: Hurling and rugby

What I like about our school: I like that we make learning fun in our school.

My priority for the Student Council: Listen to all the different ideas that everyone has.



Name: Aoibhinn O'Grady

Class: Rang 3

Favourite Subject: Art

Hobbies: Football, camogie, gymnastics and art

What I like about our school: I like the way we do fun things and that everyone is nice.

My priority for the Student Council: Fix the basketball hoops and to help the school and the community.

Gear for Our Grass Pitch

We are very fortunate in our school to have access to so much grass playing space - it's a luxury other schools don't have. We're even more fortunate that the field in question is so well drained and we have access to it for virtually 12 months of the year. However, we are now in winter and no matter how well drained the pitch is, it can get mucky at times. The children love playing on the grass and we encourage them to do so. However, please ensure they have football boots or spare footwear in school each day that they can quickly change into. It is also advisable to bring a spare tracksuit bottoms to pull up over their school uniforms.

Wellbeing Week

Our Wellbeing Committee, in conjunction with our Student Council, recently organised a host of fun activities around the school to mark Wellbeing Week. There were art competitions, zumba classes, anti-bullying lessons, a crazy hair day and lots more. It was great fun and it was all centred on the need to mind ourselves and those around us. Many thanks to the staff involved in particular for making it happen. Our Crazy Hair Day on Friday raised over €300 for local mental health group, SOSAD Laois. They were extremely grateful for your generous contributions.



Parents' Association Noticeboard

Split the Pot: Draws take place for the next 3 weeks to Dec 18th. Many thanks to all who entered. Envelopes are available from the school, Donoher's Service Station, Fishermans and Íosa Linn. We also have an online ticket option via idonate. Keep an eye on our Facebook page "Rath NS Parents Council (2023/2024)" for weekly links. Best of luck to all

Congratulations to Mr. Fitzgerald on his recent appointment as Laois Hurling Manager. The entire school community extends its best wishes and support as you embark on this exciting new role. Best of luck for the season ahead!

School Calendar: We're excited to announce that the 2025 calendar is now in print and will be available for purchase early Dec via Aladdin! The calendar highlights key dates in the school year and includes lots of photos of the year gone. It's a lovely keepsake of the school year.

Santa's Visit: We've just received confirmation from the North Pole that Santa Claus will be dropping in to visit all the boys and girls in Rath on 20th of December. So, make sure you're on your best behaviour and ready for a magical visit.

Beannachtaí na Nollag: We would like to express our gratitude to the school community for their support throughout the year. A special thanks to Mr. Fitzgerald, Ms. McCormack, and all the staff for their hard work; it is greatly appreciated. Thank you also to our Board of Management. Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas, hopefully Santa calls. Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh.

